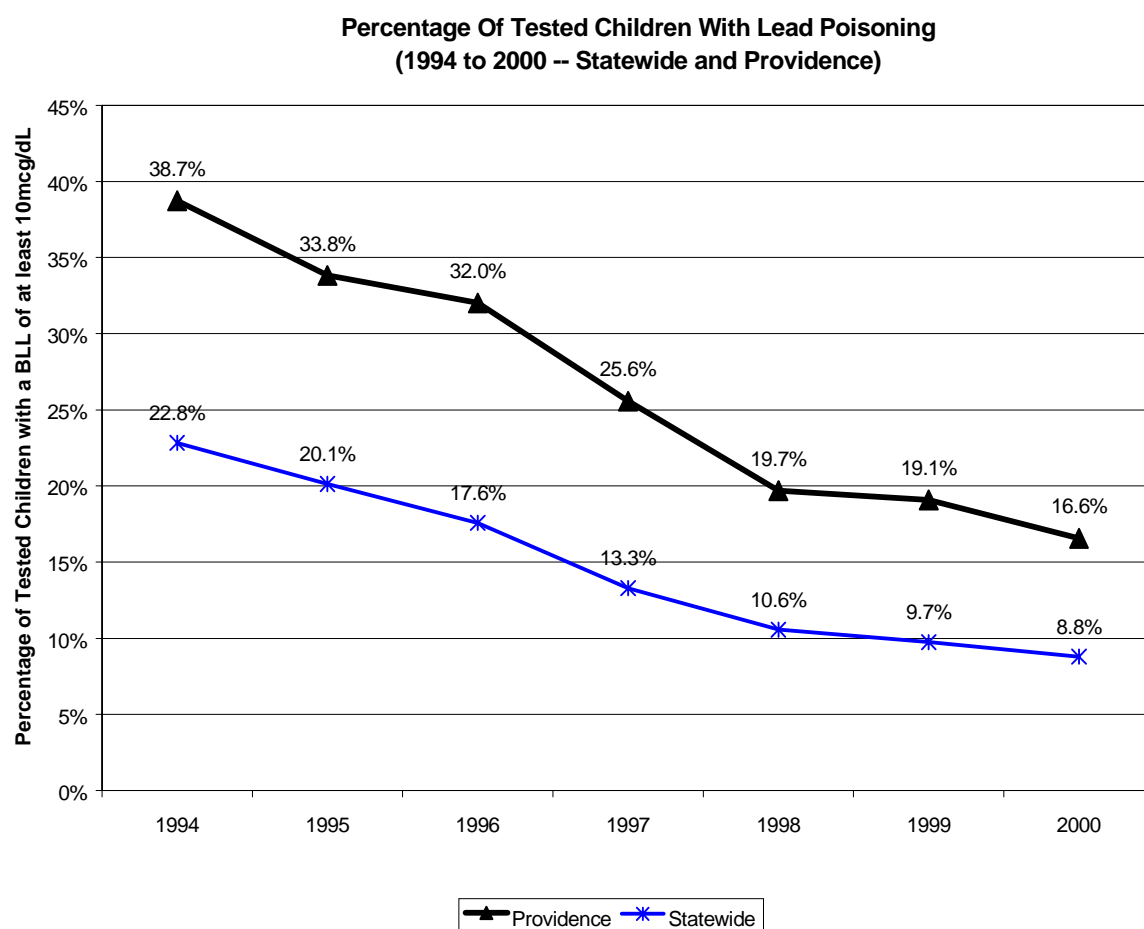


Providence Children who are Lead Poisoned

In 2000

- Over 16% of children (1200 children) tested in Providence had a harmful level of lead in their blood.
- Less than 9% of children tested statewide had a harmful level of lead in their blood.
- A harmful blood lead level is greater than or equal to ten micrograms per deciliter (abbreviated 10µg/dL or 10mcg/dL).
- The number of lead poisoned children has decreased from nearly 40% of all children tested in 1994 to 16% in 2000.

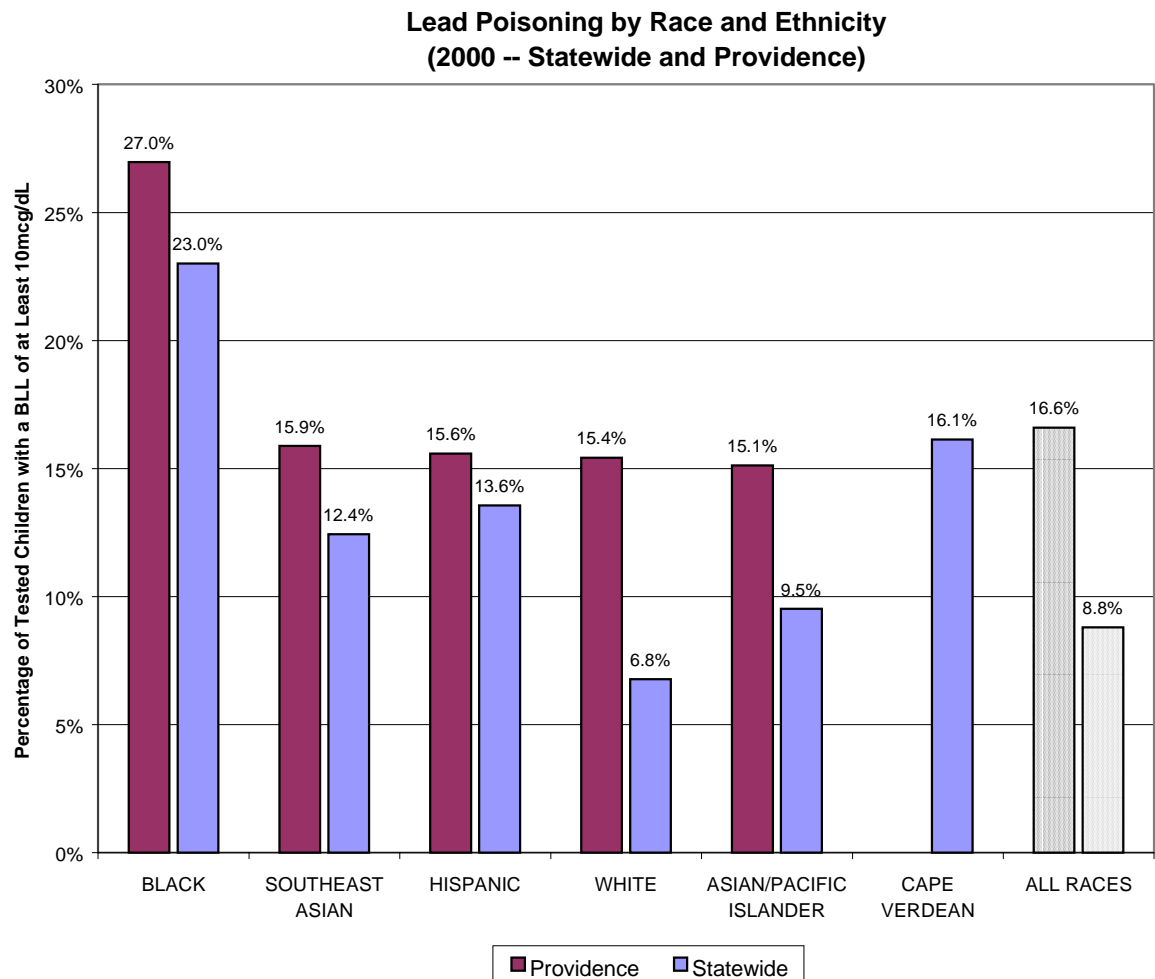


Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Lead Poisoning Rates In Providence's Children By Race And Ethnicity

Lead poisoning in the city as a whole has declined significantly.

- African American children have disproportionately higher rates of lead poisoning.
- 27% of black children in Providence were lead poisoned.
- 15% of white children in Providence were lead poisoned.



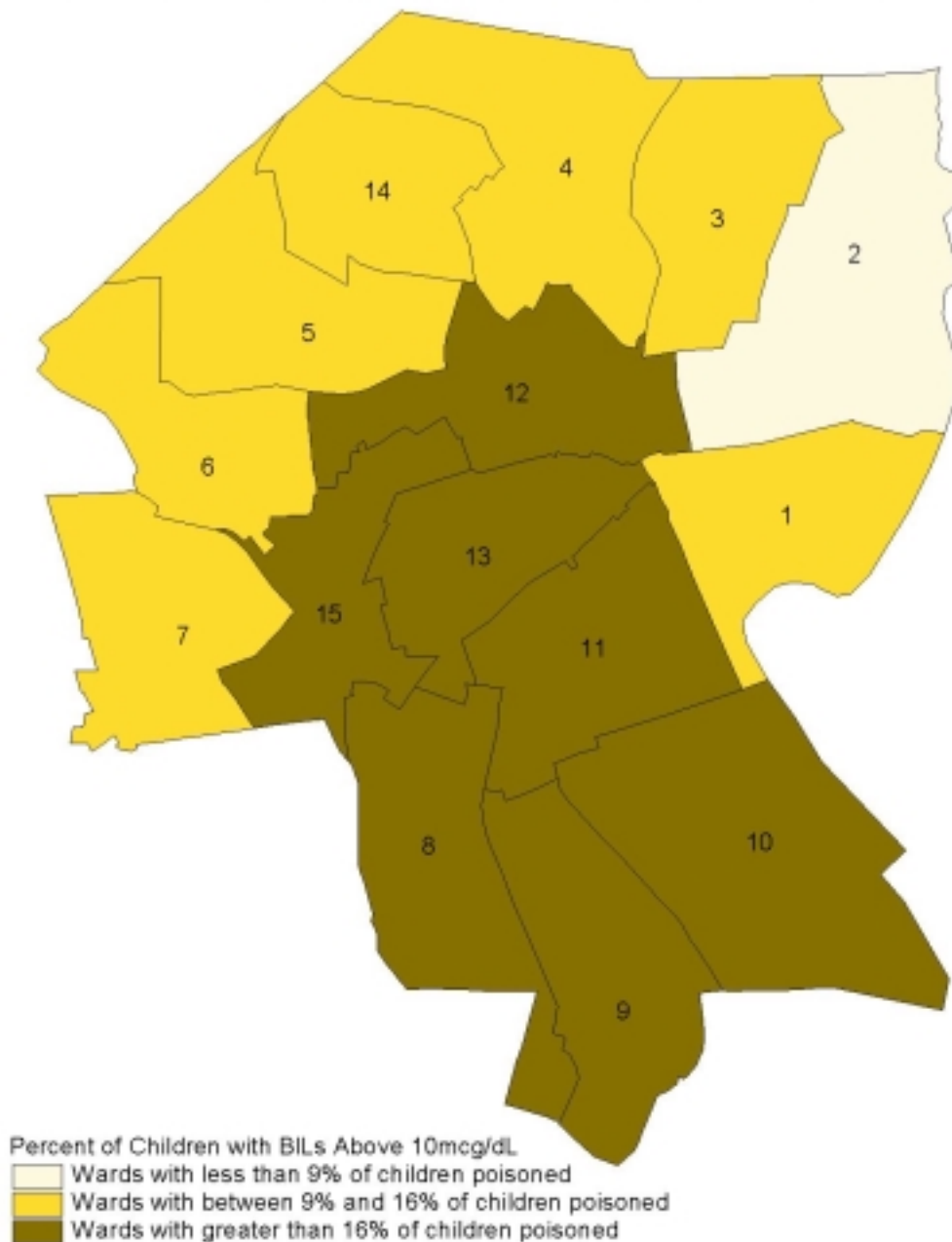
Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Note: There were too few Cape Verdean children tested in Providence to yield significant results.

Lead Poisoning Rates In Providence's Children By Geography

- Significant disparities in lead poisoning rates exist by geographic location within the city.
- The map illustrates the percentage of children tested with lead poisoning by City Council Ward for 2000.
- While all Wards have substantial declines from 1995, the disparities between the Wards have largely remained.
- The Statewide average for lead poisoned children is 9%, the Citywide average for lead poisoned children is 16%.

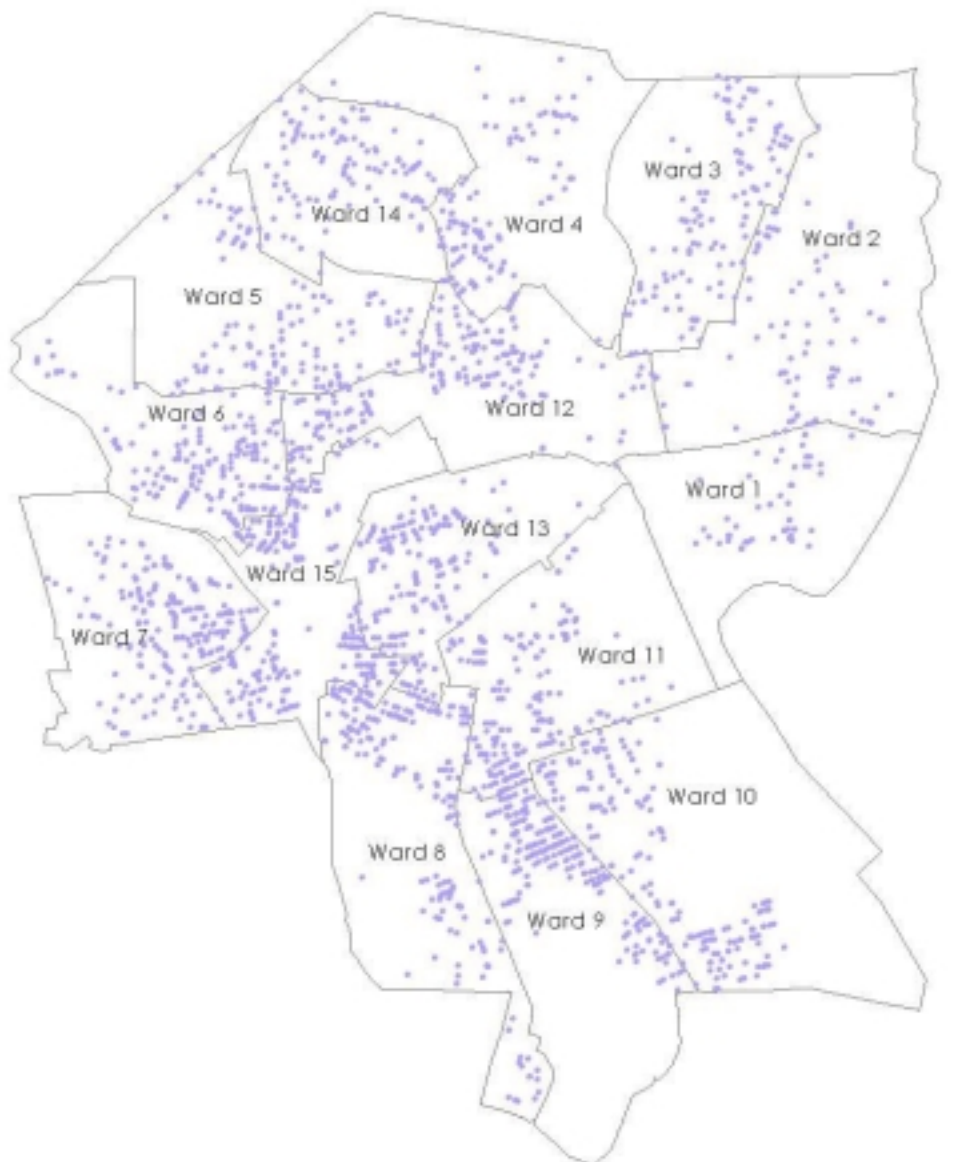
Comparison by Providence City Council Ward of Lead Poisoned Children (2000)



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Where Providence Children Born In 2000 Live

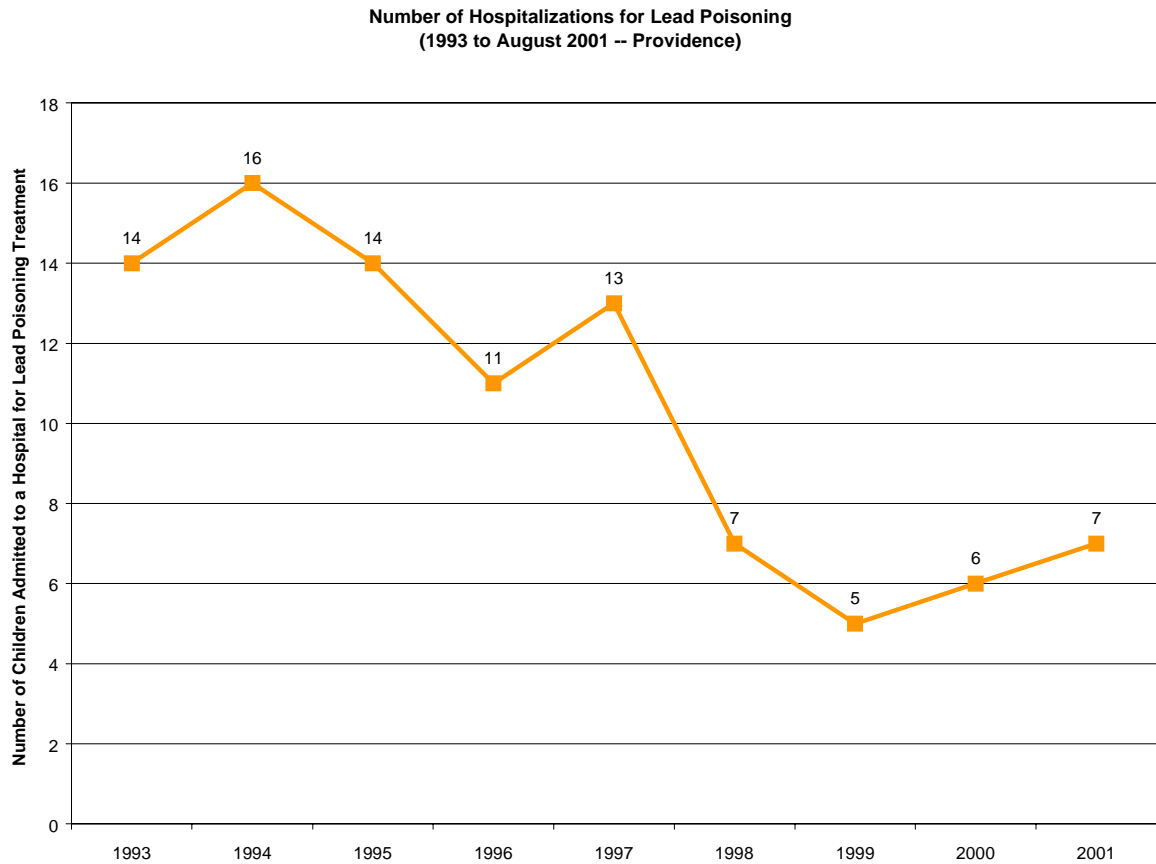
- Many newborns' first homes are unsafe dwellings due to lead.
- This map shows the residence of the mothers of all newborns from 2000.
- While scattered throughout the city, the density of newborns is greatest in the same Wards where current prevalence of lead poisoning is at its highest.
- It is likely that these newborns will face a substantially higher risk of being lead poisoned than children moving to other parts of the city.



Source of data: This map is courtesy of the Providence Plan, using Rhode Island Department of Health data in collaboration with the City.

Hospitalizations for Children with Lead Poisoning

- Children with extremely high levels of lead in their blood (usually $>45\mu\text{g/dL}$) require immediate medical treatment.
- Hospitalizations for lead poisoning have been becoming increasingly rare in the last seven years.
- There were 6 children from Providence hospitalized last year, and 7 have been hospitalized as of August 2001.

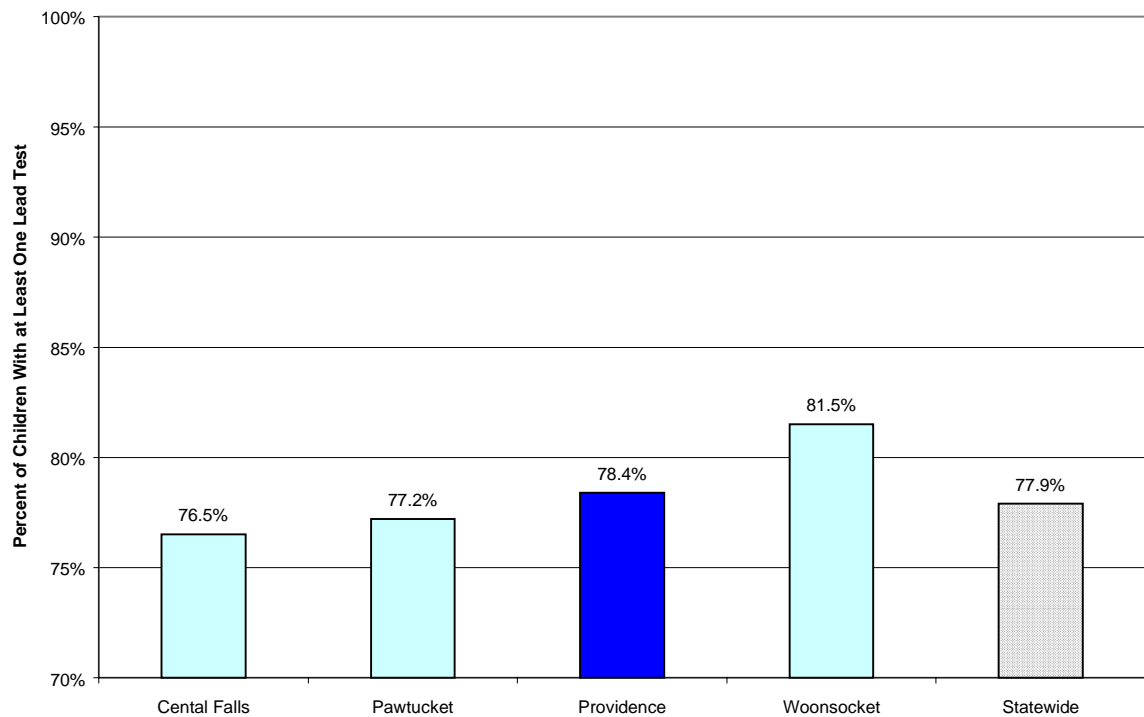


Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

How Many Providence Children Are Screened For Lead

- Since lead poisoning rarely has immediate symptoms, the only way to know if a child has been lead poisoned is by a blood test.
- State regulations require that doctors annually screen all children under of the age of six starting at 9 months. However doctor practices vary in this regard.
- Proof of screening is required for entry to preschool or kindergarten.
- Yet, not all children receive the required screenings.
- Screening rates vary more among cities and towns (62.5% to 88.5%) than by race or ethnicity.

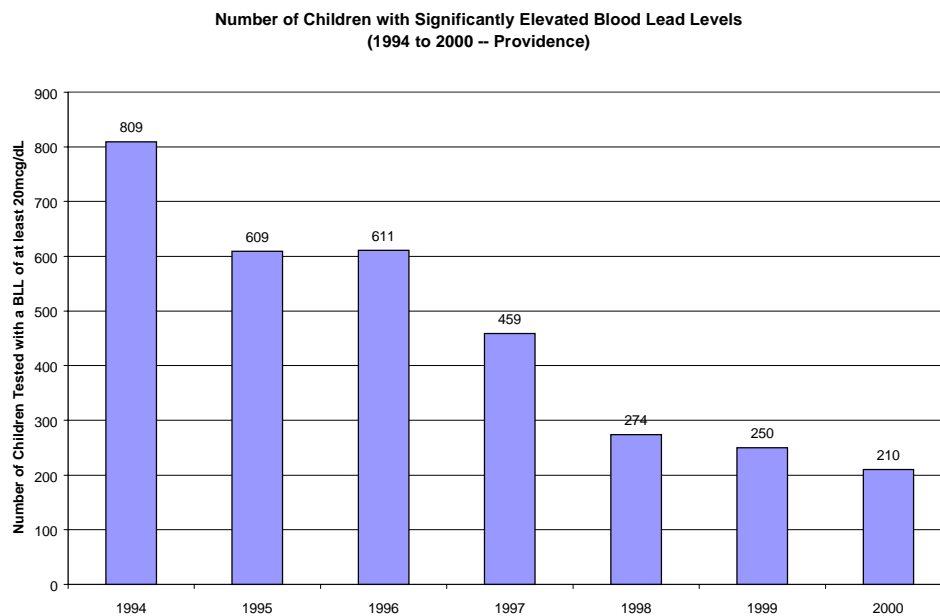
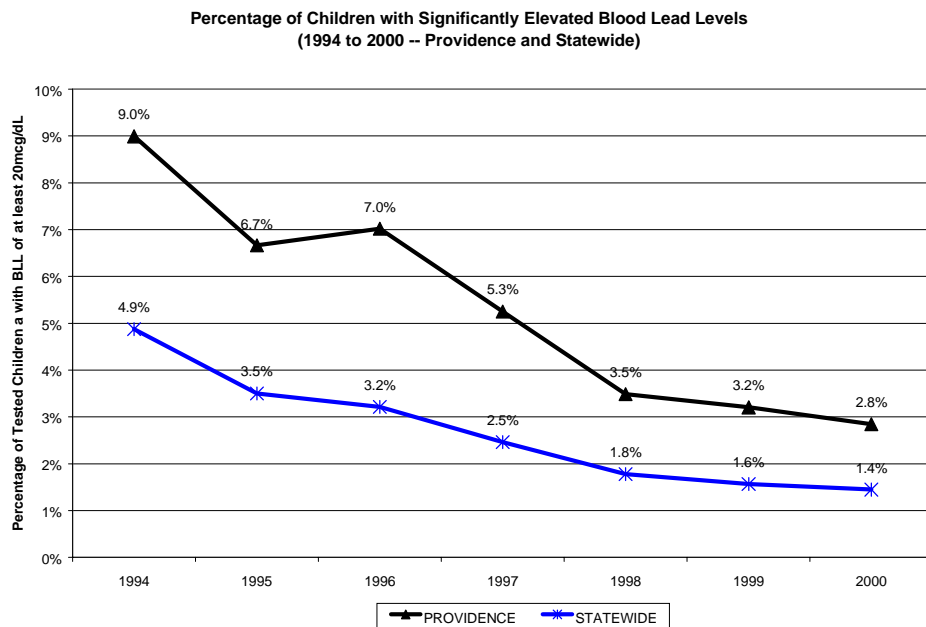
**Estimated Lead Poisoning Screening Rates
(2000 -- Major Cities and Statewide)**



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Providence Children With Significantly Elevated Blood Lead Levels

- Children with a blood lead level of 20µg/dL or higher are considered to have significantly elevated levels, and are eligible for special state services.
- Providence has experienced a three-fold drop in the number of significantly elevated blood lead levels between 1994 and 2000.
- While impressive progress has been made, the rate of these significant poisonings continues to be nearly double the state average.



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Note: The definition of significantly elevated changed in July 2001 – see “How to Interpret Lead Data” for more information.

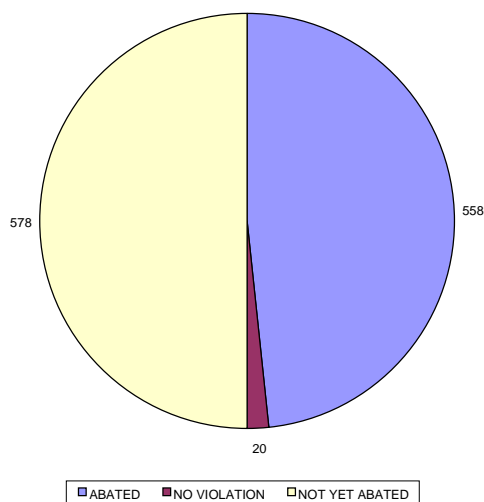
Providence Lead Inspections Overview

- Since 1995, the State inspected 1146 homes in Providence as a result of a significantly poisoned child residing there.
- A lead hazard was identified in all but 20 homes. In the other homes the homeowner was issued a notice to abate the hazards and bring the dwelling into compliance with state regulation.
- Over half of these properties have been made safer for the poisoned child and for the children who may reside there in the future.
- Continuing refusal by the property owner to comply with the regulations results in court action to force compliance. There are currently 134 cases in Providence still in the hands of the Attorney General's office or the Providence Municipal Housing Court.
- An additional 202 cases are still considered "open" by HEALTH meaning the owner is still under the notice to abate, is actively working towards compliance, or has abated only the interior or exterior with the other in progress.

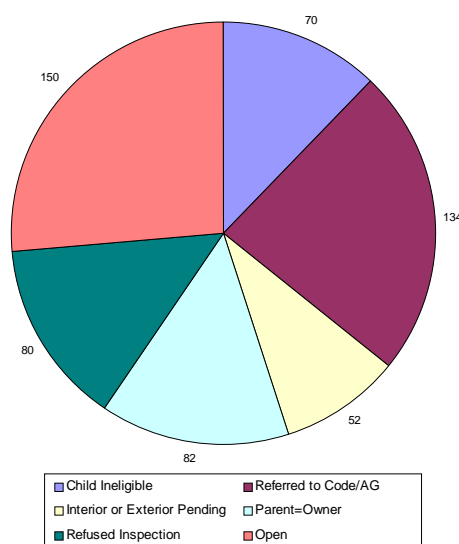
HEALTH will not pursue legal action to force abatement in certain cases:

- 82 cases were closed in Providence because the child's parents were the owners of the property and directed to the child's health care provider for medical follow-up. While no formal action was taken, these parents were offered technical assistance in making their homes lead safe, and many of these cases achieve a significant improvement in lead safety.
- 80 families refused to allow the inspector into the property and these cases had to be closed.
- In 70 cases, the child moved away, the family could not be located, the child's blood lead level dropped to below the intervention level, or the child became older than regulations allow and thus the case was closed.

Outcomes of Environmental Investigations for Significantly Elevated BLLs
(1995 to September 2001 -- Providence)



Reasons Why Cases Are Not Yet Abated
(1995 to September 2000 -- Providence)



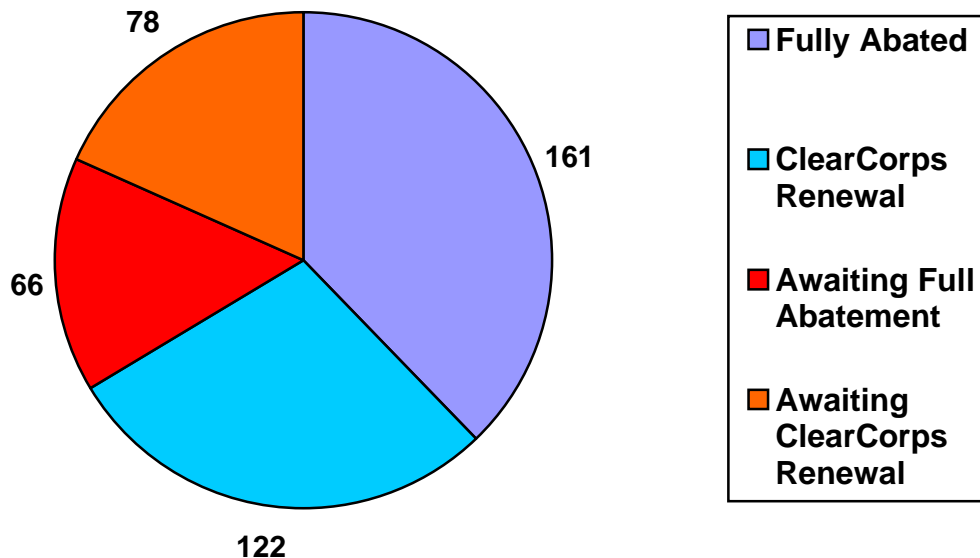
Source of Data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Units Abated Through Providence's Lead Hazard Control Program

Since 1998 Providence runs a lead hazard abatement program with city funds and a grant from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- Qualifying properties must be located in targeted neighborhoods in the city and must have a child under the age of six or a pregnant woman currently residing there. Priority is given to properties with a lead poisoned child or a notice to abate from HEALTH. Additionally, both the property owner and all the tenants must meet income criteria.
- Using current HUD funding, the city plans on fully abating 227 units. As of September 2001, the city had fully abated 161 units, with the remaining 66 units needed to reach the goal in various stages of planing or construction.
- In addition, HUD funding provided for a "Super Clean & Touch Up" program utilizing the ClearCorps model of specially trained AmeriCorps members to do minor repair and cleaning work needed to earn lead safe certificate renewals at properties previously abated. As of September 2001, 122 lead safe renewals were earned this way, with plans for another 78 before the conclusion of the program.

**Status of City of Providence's Lead Hazard Reduction Program
(September 2001)**



Source of Data: PHNC Lead Hazard Reduction Program

In addition to lead abatement work, Providence participates in a special HUD research program looking to evaluate the efficiency of combining lead hazard abatement with other home safety and health issues. Known as the "Healthy Homes" program, 140 units will receive specialized environmental sampling and repair assessments. A random sample of 70 units will receive a standard package of treatments and any additional work needed to eliminate mold and other potential hazards immediately following the lead abatement.

Providence Housing Information

- ◆ According to the 2000 census, there were 67,915 housing units in the city of Providence and 2,661 (3.9%) were vacant and for rent.
- ◆ However, according to case managers who work with Providence families to locate new apartments, the housing situation has never been worse.
- ◆ Families have a nearly impossible time locating a safe and affordable apartment.
- ◆ According to HUD guidelines, low income or poverty-level families are able to afford \$492 and \$354 a month respectively. To be able to afford an east-side apartment, a family would need to make over \$38,000 a year, and over \$24,000 for the rest of the city.

Affordable Versus Average Monthly Rent in Providence



Source of data: Rhode Island Housing rent surveys, December 2000 and January 2001